

## **ABSTRACT**

**RESEARCH PAPER:** Evaluation of Nursing Students' Reflective Writing Skills for Critical Thinking.

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Reflective writing has been identified as a way of evaluating critical thinking, therefore nurse educators need to evaluate students' writings for evidence of critical thinking. The purpose of this correlational study is to evaluate the relationship between students' reflective writing and critical thinking skills. This is a partial replication of Kennison's (2006) study. The conceptual framework for the study is Critical Thinking based on the American Psychological Delphi Research (Facione & Facione, 1994) project on critical thinking. The study will take place at Indiana-Purdue University, Fort Wayne Campus. The anticipated sample is 50 junior level nursing students enrolled in NUR 336 Medical-Surgical III Nursing of Adults with Complex HealthCare Problems. Reflective writing skills will be measured by the Critical Thinking scale. The California Critical thinking Skills Test (CCTST) will measure critical thinking of all students enrolled. Findings will provide evidence that critical thinking can be measured with the use of reflective writing and that reflective writing can improve critical thinking.

